

Trout Gulch Mutual Water Co. Consumer Confidence Report 2013



Chris Klein
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Is my water safe?

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies. TGW is in compliance with all standards set by regulatory agencies with the exception of Manganese (Mn) a secondary standard not typically associated with health issues in the general population. TGW has been issued a waiver from the CDPH to distribute our water with slightly

Do I need to take special precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791). Manganese (Mn) is naturally occurring in the water table. Mn exceeded the secondary standard of 50 parts per billion (ppb) in Well #3, one of two wells used regularly to produce water for distribution by TGW in 2013. Secondary standards are in place to establish an acceptable aesthetic quality of water and are not considered a health hazard in the general population.

TGW is neither treating nor filtering water distributed to members. If members wish to treat and filter water received, commercially manufactured units are available for purchase and members may install systems beyond the connection point (water meter) at their property or residence.



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Where does my water come from?

In 2013, TGW derived water solely from deep-water wells that have remained stable over many years. Inherently, ground water has less potential for contamination than surface water sources. No contamination of TGW sources was identified during 2013.

Sources; TGW has three wells and a connection to Soquel Creek Water District:

Well #1 - Norman Well (1931). Active but in standby mode. Not used for distribution in 2012. Water produced is of good quality but is very high (~900 PPB) in Mn. This well remains a backup for emergency use and fire protection.

Well #2 - Old Meadow Well (1961). Active and in use daily. Produces good quality water that meets or exceeds all regulatory requirements.

Well #3 - New Meadow Well (2009). Active and in use daily. Produces good quality water in high volume. Exceeds Mn MCL of 50 PPB (~95 PPB). Water is often blended with production from Well #2 to lower the total Mn delivered.

Intertie – A Soquel Creek Water District to TGW water connection for emergency backup and fire protection. The Intertie was not required for use in 2013 to meet water demands of TGW.

Source water assessment and its availability

TGW water sources are monitored by Company Contractors and by the Santa Cruz County Environmental Health Service (SCCEHS). Water distributed is in compliance with all known safe drinking water requirements and regulations.

In 2013, water from source Well #3 showed manganese (Mn), a secondary standard not normally associated with health risks in the general population, in excess of State maximum contaminant level (MCL). By popular vote of TGW members and by the rules outlined in Title 22 of the California Health and Safety Code, TGW has opted not to treat and filter our water to further reduce Mn levels. TGW is seeking (and expects to receive) a treatment waiver via the SCCEHS department.

TGW provides information regarding water quality and other important water related issues on the web at www.troutgulchwater.org. Information is continually updated as changes occur. Visit often to remain informed with the latest developments and Company status.



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Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity: microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife; inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming; pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses; organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems; and radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

How can I get involved?

Trout Gulch Mutual Water Company (TGW) is a non-profit, member owned and operated mutual benefit corporation in business solely to provide its members with water related services including safe drinking water, irrigation, fire protection and more.

All members are encouraged to stay current with TGW information by frequently visiting our website at www.troutgulchwater.org. In addition, members are welcome to assist in necessary work to operate and maintain the company by seeking a position on the voluntary Board of Directors. There are many tasks necessary to keep the water flowing. Please participate; many hands make light work for all.

TGW Board of Directors meets monthly. All members are welcome to attend. Meeting schedules and locations are posted on the web at www.troutgulchwater.org.



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Water Conservation Tips

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference – try one today and soon it will become second nature.

- Take short showers - a 5 minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.
- Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.
- Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Water plants only when necessary.
- Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.
- Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!
- Visit www.epa.gov/watersense for more information.

Cross Connection Control Survey

The purpose of this survey is to determine whether a cross-connection may exist at your home or business. A cross connection is an unprotected or improper connection to a public water distribution system that may cause contamination or pollution to enter the system. We are responsible for enforcing cross-connection control regulations and insuring that no contaminants can, under any flow conditions, enter the distribution system. If you have any of the devices listed below please contact us so that we can discuss the issue, and if needed, survey your connection and assist you in isolating it if that is necessary.

- Boiler/ Radiant heater (water heaters not included)
- Underground lawn sprinkler system
- Pool or hot tub (whirlpool tubs not included)
- Additional source(s) of water on the property
- Decorative pond
- Watering trough



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Source Water Protection Tips

Protection of drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect your community's drinking water source in several ways:

- Eliminate excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides – they contain hazardous chemicals that can reach your drinking water source.
- Pick up after your pets.
- If you have your own septic system, properly maintain your system to reduce leaching to water sources or consider connecting to a public water system.
- Dispose of chemicals properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community, or visit the Watershed Information Network's How to Start a Watershed Team.
- Organize a storm drain stenciling project with your local government or water supplier. Stencil a message next to the street drain reminding people "Dump No Waste - Drains to River" or "Protect Your Water." Produce and distribute a flyer for households to remind residents that storm drains dump directly into your local water body.

Additional Information for Lead

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Trout Gulch Mutual Water Company is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.



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Water Quality Data Table

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below the table.

<u>Contaminants</u>	<u>MCLG or MRDLG</u>	<u>MCL, TT, or MRDL</u>	<u>Your Water</u>	<u>Range</u>		<u>Sample Date</u>	<u>Violation</u>	<u>Typical Source</u>
				<u>Low</u>	<u>High</u>			
Inorganic Contaminants								
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	0.6	0.52	0.6	2013	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Arsenic (ppb)	0	10	0.062	0.062	1.5	2013	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Chromium (ppb)	100	100	1	ND	1	2013	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Microbiological Contaminants								
Fecal coliform/E. coli - in the distribution system (positive samples)	0	0	0	NA		2013	No	Human and animal fecal waste
A violation occurs when a routine sample and a repeat sample, in any given month, are total coliform positive, and one is also fecal coliform or E. coli positive.								
Total Coliform (positive samples/month)	0	1	1	NA		2013	No	Naturally present in the environment



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Undetected Contaminants

The following contaminants were monitored for, but not detected, in your water.

<u>Contaminants</u>	<u>MCLG or MRDLG</u>	<u>MCL or MRDL</u>	<u>Your Water</u>	<u>Violation</u>	<u>Typical Source</u>
1,2-Dichloroethane (ppb)	0	5	ND	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
Dibromochloropropane (DBCP) (ppt)	0	200	ND	No	Runoff/leaching from soil fumigant used on soybeans, cotton, pineapples, and orchards
Chlordane (ppb)	0	2	ND	No	Residue of banned termiticide
Endrin (ppb)	2	2	ND	No	Residue of banned insecticide
Heptachlor (ppt)	0	400	ND	No	Residue of banned pesticide
Hexachlorobenzene (ppb)	0	1	ND	No	Discharge from metal refineries and agricultural chemical factories
Methoxychlor (ppb)	40	40	ND	No	Runoff/leaching from insecticide used on fruits, vegetables, alfalfa, livestock
Toxaphene (ppb)	0	3	ND	No	Runoff/leaching from insecticide used on cotton and cattle
PCBs [Polychlorinated biphenyls] (ppt)	0	500	ND	No	Runoff from landfills; Discharge of waste chemicals
2,4-D (ppb)	70	70	ND	No	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops
Dalapon (ppb)	200	200	ND	No	Runoff from herbicide used on rights of way
Pentachlorophenol (ppb)	0	1	ND	No	Discharge from wood preserving factories
Picloram (ppb)	500	500	ND	No	Herbicide runoff



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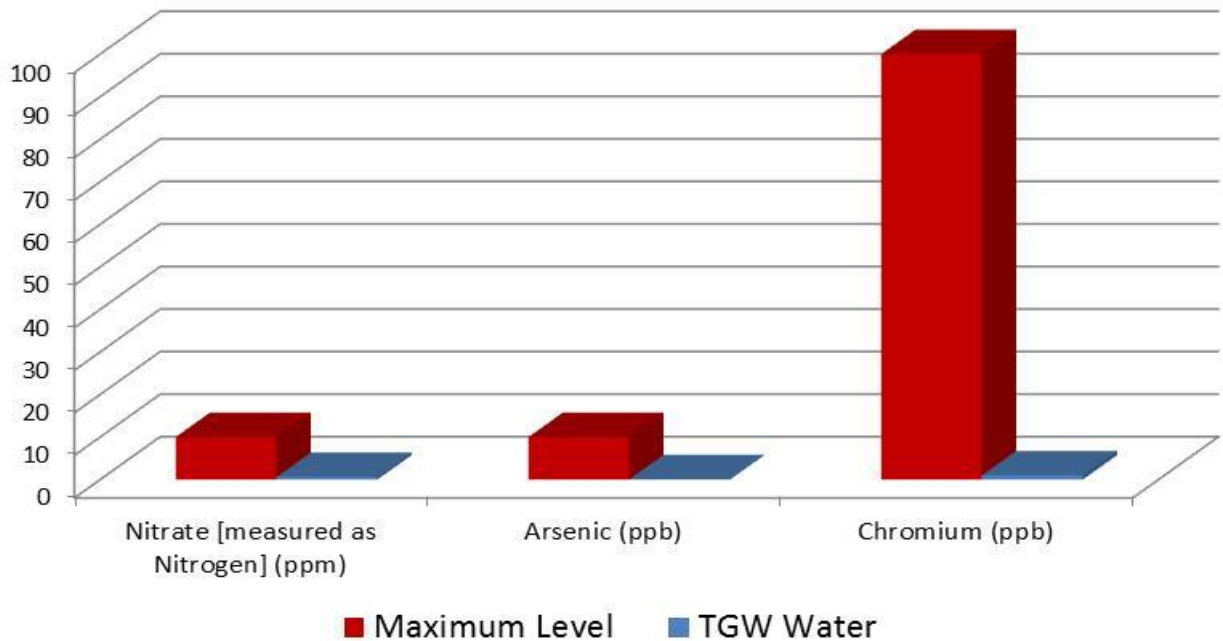
2,4,5-TP (Silvex) (ppb)	50	50	ND	No	Residue of banned herbicide
Cyanide [as Free Cn] (ppb)	200	200	ND	No	Discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories; Discharge from steel/metal factories
Antimony (ppb)	6	6	ND	No	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder; test addition.
Barium (ppm)	2	2	ND	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Beryllium (ppb)	4	4	ND	No	Discharge from metal refineries and coal-burning factories; Discharge from
Cadmium (ppb)	5	5	ND	No	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from

Unit Descriptions	
Term	Definition
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
positive samples/month	positive samples/month: Number of samples taken monthly that were found to be positive
positive samples	positive samples/yr: The number of positive samples taken that year
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.

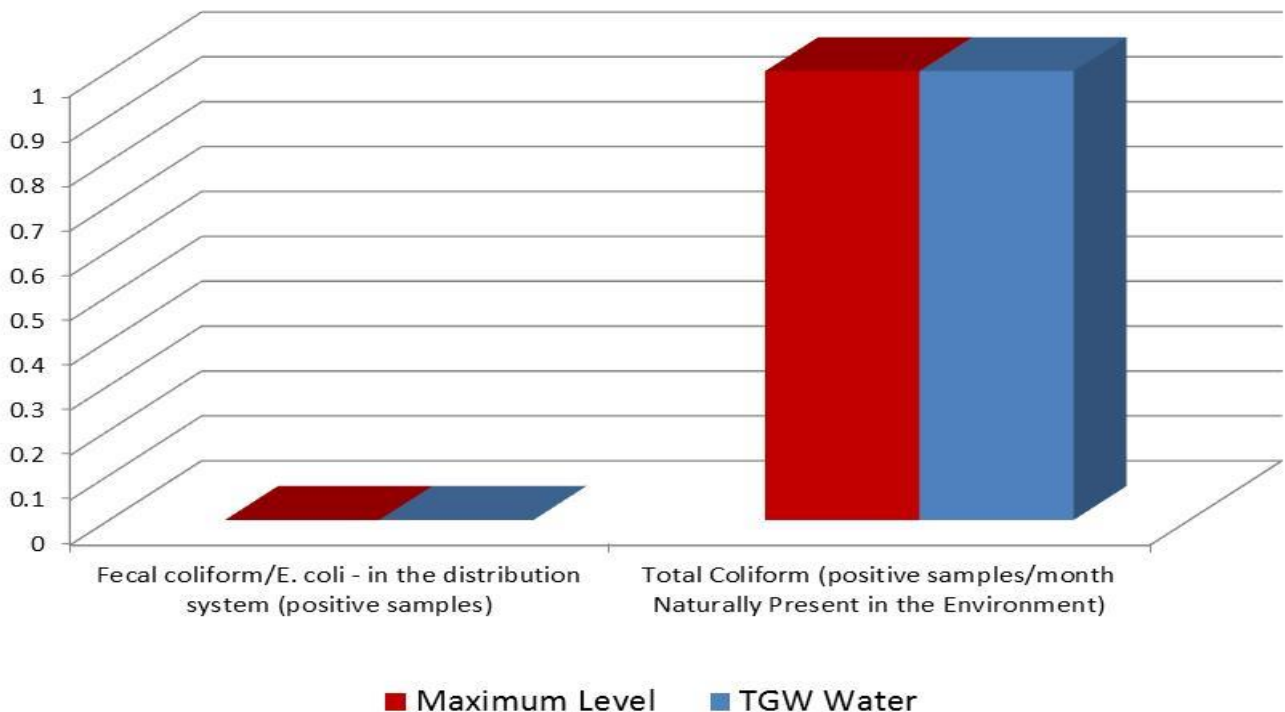


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INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS



MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS





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Important Drinking Water Definitions	
Term	Definition
MCLG	MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
MCL	MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
TT	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Variances and Exemptions	Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
MRDLG	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection level goal. The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
MRDL	MRDL: Maximum residual disinfectant level. The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
MNR	MNR: Monitored Not Regulated
MPL	MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level

For more information please contact:

Contact Name: Chris Klein
 Address: 106 Victoria Lane
 Aptos, CA 95003
 Phone: 831 818-5936
 E-Mail: tgw.operations@gmail.com
 Website: www.troutgulchwater.org